

**(4) Function**

The term “function” means an administrative, financial, or regulatory activity of an agency, office, officer, or employee of the Department.

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §203, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3209.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original “this title”, meaning title II of Pub. L. 103-354, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3209, known as the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994. For complete classification of title II to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 6901 of this title and Tables.

SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL  
REORGANIZATION AUTHORITIES**§ 6911. Repealed. Pub. L. 115-334, title XII, § 12414(a)(1), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4981**

Section, Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §211, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3209; Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, §722(c), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1115; Pub. L. 107-171, title VI, §6201(d)(3), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 419, related to transfer of Department functions to Secretary of Agriculture.

## CONSTRUCTION OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 115-334, title XII, §12414(c), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4981, provided that: “Nothing in the amendments made by this section [repealing sections 6911, 6913, 6914, 6917, 6935, 6963, 6972, and 7013 of this title] shall be construed as affecting—

“(1) the authority of the Secretary to continue to carry out a function vested in, and performed by, the Secretary as of the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 20, 2018] under any provision of Federal law other than the provisions repealed by subsections (a) and (b); or

“(2) the authority of an agency, office, officer, or employee of the Department of Agriculture to continue to perform all functions delegated or assigned to the agency, office, officer, or employee as of the date of enactment of this Act any provision of Federal law other than the provisions repealed by subsections (a) and (b).”

**§ 6912. Authority of Secretary to delegate transferred functions****(a) Delegation of authority****(1) Delegation authorized**

Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary may delegate to any agency, office, officer, or employee of the Department the authority to perform any function transferred to the Secretary under section 6911(a)<sup>1</sup> of this title or any other function vested in the Secretary as of October 13, 1994. The authority provided in the preceding sentence includes the authority to establish, consolidate, alter, or discontinue any agency, office, or other administrative unit of the Department.

**(2) Condition on authority**

The delegation authority provided by paragraph (1) shall be subject to—

(A) sections 6942, 6971(f), 6993, and 2204e of this title and subsections (a) and (b)(1) of section 6981 of this title;

(B) sections 5692 and 5693 of this title; and

(C) section 590h(b)(5) of title 16.

**(b) Cost-benefit analysis required for name change****(1) Analysis required**

Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall conduct a cost-benefit analysis before changing the name of any agency, office, division, or other unit of the Department to ensure that the benefits to be derived from changing the name of the agency, office, division, or other unit outweigh the expense of executing the name change.

**(2) Exception**

Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to any name change required or authorized by this chapter.

**(c) Public comment on proposed reorganization**

To the extent that the implementation of the authority provided to the Secretary by this chapter to reorganize the Department involves the creation of new agencies or offices within the Department or the delegation of major functions or major groups of functions to any agency or office of the Department (or the officers or employees of such agency or office), the Secretary shall, to the extent considered practicable by the Secretary—

(1) give appropriate advance public notice of the proposed reorganization action or delegation; and

(2) afford appropriate opportunity for interested parties to comment on the proposed reorganization action or delegation.

**(d) Interagency transfer of records, property, personnel, and funds****(1) Related transfers**

Subject to paragraph (2), as part of the transfer or delegation of a function of the Department made or authorized by this chapter, the Secretary may transfer within the Department—

(A) any of the records, property, or personnel affected by the transfer or delegation of the function; and

(B) unexpended balances (available or to be made available for use in connection with the transferred or delegated function) of appropriations, allocations, or other funds of the Department.

**(2) Applicable law relating to funds transfer**

Section 1531 of title 31 shall apply to any transfer of funds under paragraph (1).

**(e) Exhaustion of administrative appeals**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person shall exhaust all administrative appeal procedures established by the Secretary or required by law before the person may bring an action in a court of competent jurisdiction against—

(1) the Secretary;

(2) the Department; or

(3) an agency, office, officer, or employee of the Department.

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §212, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3210; Pub. L. 110-234, title VII, §7511(c)(27), May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1270; Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a),

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.

title VII, §7511(c)(27), June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 2031.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 6911 of this title, referred to in subsec. (a)(1), was repealed by Pub. L. 115–334, title XII, §12414(a)(1), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4981.

This chapter, referred to in subsecs. (b)(2), (c), and (d)(1), was in the original “this title”, meaning title II of Pub. L. 103–354, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3209, known as the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994. For complete classification of title II to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 6901 of this title and Tables.

#### CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 110–234 and Pub. L. 110–246 made identical amendments to this section. The amendments by Pub. L. 110–234 were repealed by section 4(a) of Pub. L. 110–246.

#### AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (a)(2)(A). Pub. L. 110–246, §7511(c)(27), substituted “6971(f),” for “6971(d),”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Amendment of this section and repeal of Pub. L. 110–234 by Pub. L. 110–246 effective May 22, 2008, the date of enactment of Pub. L. 110–234, except as otherwise provided, see section 4 of Pub. L. 110–246, set out as an Effective Date note under section 8701 of this title.

Amendment by section 7511(c)(27) of Pub. L. 110–246 effective Oct. 1, 2009, see section 7511(c) of Pub. L. 110–246, set out as a note under section 1522 of this title.

#### §§ 6913, 6914. Repealed. Pub. L. 115–334, title XII, § 12414(a)(2), (3), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4981

Section 6913, Pub. L. 103–354, title II, §213, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3211, related to reductions in number of Department personnel.

Section 6914, Pub. L. 103–354, title II, §214, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3211, related to consolidation of headquarters offices.

#### § 6915. Combination of field offices

##### (a) Combination of offices required

Where practicable and to the extent consistent with efficient, effective, and improved service, the Secretary shall combine field offices of agencies within the Department to reduce personnel and duplicative overhead expenses.

##### (b) Joint use of resources and offices required

When two or more agencies of the Department share a common field office, the Secretary shall require the agencies to jointly use office space, equipment, office supplies, administrative personnel, and clerical personnel associated with that field office.

(Pub. L. 103–354, title II, §215, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3211.)

#### § 6916. Improvement of information sharing

Whenever the Secretary procures or uses computer systems, as may be provided for in advance in appropriations Acts, the Secretary shall do so in a manner that enhances efficiency, productivity, and client services and is consistent with the goal of promoting computer information sharing among agencies of the Department.

(Pub. L. 103–354, title II, §216, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3212.)

#### § 6917. Repealed. Pub. L. 115–334, title XII, § 12414(a)(4), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4981

Section, Pub. L. 103–354, title II, §217, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3212, related to reports by Secretary.

#### § 6918. Assistant Secretaries of Agriculture

##### (a) Authorization

The Secretary is authorized to establish in the Department the positions of—

(1) Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs;

(2) Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration; and

(3) Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Civil Rights.

##### (b) Confirmation required

If the Secretary establishes any position of Assistant Secretary authorized under paragraph (1) or (3) of subsection (a), the Assistant Secretary shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

##### (c) Duties of Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Civil Rights

The Secretary may delegate to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights responsibility for—

(1) ensuring compliance with all civil rights and related laws by all agencies and under all programs of the Department;

(2) coordinating administration of civil rights laws (including regulations) within the Department for employees of, and participants in, programs of the Department; and

(3) ensuring that necessary and appropriate civil rights components are properly incorporated into all strategic planning initiatives of the Department and agencies of the Department.

(Pub. L. 103–354, title II, §218, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3212; Pub. L. 105–277, div. A, §101(a) [title X, §1001(1)], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681, 2681–41; Pub. L. 107–171, title X, §10704(a), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 518; Pub. L. 112–166, §2(a)(1), Aug. 10, 2012, 126 Stat. 1283; Pub. L. 115–334, title XII, §§12401(a), 12415(b)(1), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4971, 4981.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 115–334, §12401(a), substituted “Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs” for “Relations”.

Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 115–334, §12415(b)(1), amended this section, as in effect on the day before the effective date of the amendments made by section 2(a)(1) of Pub. L. 112–166, by redesignating subsec. (d) as (c) and striking out former subsec. (c). Prior to amendment, text of subsec. (c) read as follows: “Any official who is serving as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration or Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Congressional Relations on October 13, 1994, and who was appointed as such Assistant Secretary by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall not be required to be reappointed under subsection (b) of this section to the successor position authorized under subsection (a) of this section if the Secretary establishes the position, and the official occupies the new position, within 180 days after October 13, 1994 (or such later date set by the Secretary if litigation delays rapid succession).” See 2012 Amendment note and Effective Date of 2012 Amendment note below.

2012—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 112–166, §2(a)(1)(A), substituted “paragraph (1) or (3) of subsection (a)” for “subsection (a)”.